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Now, pull it in a little closer...

OPINION

Politically active students: start opposition party

By **NOAH LEVIN**
Opinion editor

With the votes counted, a new body of student politicians is set to take the stage next semester in their positions as part of the Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC). This council of representatives is chosen to make our voices heard to the powers that be on campus.

The ASOC, and similar governing bodies at schools across the nation, are meant to be exercises in the political process. The aim is to have students take a productive role in the governing of their

school, and is meant to prepare high school and college students for life as productive citizens.

So given that our annual ASOC elections are supposed to simulate actual voting and political races, I find it a particularly glaring fault that our school government has but a single political party, and therefore can be assumed to only truly represent a fraction of the student body.

I am not decrying the ASOC and claiming they have done a poor job over the years. But to truly simulate a political campaign, there ought to be more than a single person running for the highest office available. De-

mocracy is about choice, and if the school and ASOC want students to be more active, then maybe another political party within the school government is called for.

I propose the founding of a pragmatic, open-minded party that would aim to help the school better address the concerns of the student body. Again, I am not aiming to chastise the ASOC or their methods, but I find it to be of some concern that any candidate could run unopposed, as did all this election.

It speaks volumes to me about our students' concerns about the school and school elections when no one even cared enough to simply try

and run, even if they had no hope or care of winning.

This is where a new party to challenge the ASOC would fit in perfectly. Given a broader range of candidates to choose from, disenfranchised or otherwise cynical students may decide to indeed jump into the school's political process to root for opposing teams, if nothing else.

Admittedly, I am not very well read on the subject of our school's charter or constitution, but the principal idea behind this opposition party would be to present real political challenges to would-be candidates and to encourage a change

in the largely non-participatory student body toward a proactive, vocal role in school governance.

Should this party actually make the leap from paper to reality, I would hope to see a group led by people who were sound of mind, rational and forward thinking. If school administration were to consider ASOC the governing representative body of the Ohlone students, much like the United States federal government, then my theoretical party would need to exist within that system. Should that be the case, what would be the party affiliation of the existing

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Consumer tech should be a tool, not a crutch

By **SEAN NERO**
Staff writer

Recently I went to a local fast food restaurant and noticed that the line was unusually long. Being the patient person that I am, I waited in the line until my turn came. This simple process took approximately 15 minutes of my time. When I did reach the front about 15 minutes later, I asked the cashier what took so long. The cashier replied, "Sorry for the inconvenience, but the register displays are down." The cashier and his co-workers were having a

surprisingly difficult time calculating the customers' bills without the aid of a cash register.

This is an example of just how dependent we have become on consumer electronics and technology. While consumer tech oftentimes makes things easier, our lives have become saturated with technology that we rely on heavily.

Consumer technology helped to change the face of dating through the Internet. People are increasingly looking to the Internet in hopes that their one true love is a few clicks away. This not only takes away from the human interaction that is so important when trying to woo

someone, but can cost quite a bit of money.

Our culture's overdependence on electronics is also in the classroom, as even veteran teachers find themselves relying more on online classes than the traditional methods. Though it may be convenient to take online classes, students will be hard pressed to find the kind of personal connection students get from professors and from one another.

People further rely on the Internet to teach them how to do everything from dressing to cooking. This over-reliance has to be contributing to our increasingly sedentary lifestyle. Having to do nothing more

than go to the Internet or grab some electronic device to assist us with just about anything we need sounds pretty nice. However, by taking this route, we are missing out on a myriad of learning experiences by minimizing the possibilities for mistakes.

Cell phones are another source of dependency, as some people keep every contact, number, appointment and password stored inside of their phones. This more or less makes calendars, appointment books and organizers obsolete, but also opens consumers to a significant risk of identity theft. If a person were to lose their cell phone, they run the risk of

having very personal information lost and potentially abused.

Possessing and being practiced in simple skills like arithmetic and spelling may seem redundant as we continue to progress into the electronic age, but these skill sets will always be necessary.

There is a way to stymie this problem. By using electronics to complement our knowledge and skills, we can increase our efficiency and productivity. This means not allowing technology to determine the breadth of our knowledge. This way, even if the register is not working, we will still be able to move at an efficient pace.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What does Ohlone know about swine flu?



Connie Castaned
DIGITAL ANIMATION
"All I know is you get a high fever and you can die."



Michelle Morimoto
BIOLOGY
"It affects people because we are genetically similar to pigs."



Ruth Kraynick
ART
"I know it's a major problem in California and Texas."



Shawn Moon
BIOLOGY
"I know it comes from Mexico."



Savannah Stratton
ENGLISH
"People are becoming more careful and aware."